

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/673,106

Applicant(s)

GRIEU ET AL.

Examiner

Aravind K. Moorthy

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 1/10/07.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date see attachment
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

CHRISTOPHER REVAK
PRIMARY EXAMINER



DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the interview conducted on 17 April 2007.
2. Claims 1-29 are pending in the application.
3. Claims 1-29 have been allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stanley Spooner on 17 April 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

- A. Insert heading "Field of Invention" after line 3 on page 1 of the specification.
- B. Insert heading "Discussion of Prior Art" after line 7 on page 1 of the specification.
- C. Insert heading "Summary of Invention" after line 18 on page 3 of the specification.
- D. Insert heading "Detailed Description" after line 28 on page 3 of the specification.

Claim 16 (AMENDED) A method of modifying the content of the non-volatile memory of a microcircuit card, in particular a contactless card, in which method the card is temporarily coupled to a terminal while a transaction is being executed, in particular a remote ticketing transaction, said transaction including the terminal applying to the card a plurality of modification commands, each of said modification command comprising at least one operation of recording in the card memory a particular data item, determined among a plurality of data items contained in the card as a function of an index or of an identifier conveyed to the card by each of said commands, the various data items recorded in this way being mutually interdependent, the method comprising the card executing the following steps:

- a) on receiving corresponding respective commands from the terminal, provisionally recording in the card memory each of said interdependent items of information; then
- b) finalizing such modifications such that for subsequent operations the commands executed in step a) will:

- i) either all have been taken into account,
- ii) or else all them will be without effect,

in which method:

said commands are commands for modification of the contents of the card memory,

in step a) the writing in the card memory of new values of said data items modifies the contents of the memory without losing prior values of said items, and

in step b), the modifications are finalized in such a way that, if all the commands are performed in step a) are without effect, then the data contained in the non-volatile memory will remain the state they were before step b) being performed.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-29 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The current application is directed towards microcircuit cards, and more particularly to microprocessor cards which themselves perform various modifications to their own non-volatile memory. The card connects to a terminal and on receiving corresponding respective commands from the terminal. The terminal modifies the contents of the card memory by provisionally recording in the card memory each of the interdependent items of information without losing prior values corresponding to the items. The modifications are finalized by all of them being confirmed or by all of them being discarded.

The closest prior art to the current application is Cheung U.S. Patent No. 6,062,472 (hereinafter Cheung). Cheung is directed towards a system for increasing the value of an electronic payment card. The system comprises, e.g., a security module arranged for authentication of the card, and an authorizing device for authorizing a value increase transaction to the card. The system is arranged for sending a value increase message to the card, upon which the value stored in memory in the card is increased, if the card has been found to be authentic and the value increase transaction thereof has been authorized. The system also has memory, in which identification data of the card is stored and, linked thereto, data relating to the

authorization of the value increase of the card. If a value increase transaction is interrupted after authorization for the transaction had been given, a restore transaction occurs. In the restore transaction, the authenticity of the card is checked and the value increase transaction occurs on the basis of the authorization information previously stored in the system memory during the value increase transaction. Hence, through the system, interrupted value increase transactions may be recovered without the need for a new authorization.

However the process described by Cheung is performed on a system remote to a card. The security module of Cheung finalizes the modifications to the card memory by one of confirming all of the modifications or by discarding all of the modifications. Therefore, Cheung differs from the current application in that the provisional recording and finalization of modification takes place at the security module and not on the card as claimed in the current application.

Any claims not directly addressed are allowed on their virtue of dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aravind K. Moorthy whose telephone number is 571-272-3793. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Aravind K Moorthy
April 26, 2007

CHRISTOPHER REVAK
PRIMARY EXAMINER

